

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 04658 121744Z

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ACTION CU-04

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R 121631Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2025

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4658

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: OPERATION "SHOESTRING" - RETURN OF THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

1. WE HAVE NOW REACHED WRITTEN UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR A RETURN ENGAGEMENT IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE ORCHESTRA WILL ARRIVE ON FEB. 26, 1975 AND RETURN TO MILWAUKEE ON MARCH 6. DURING ITS TEN-DAY STAY, THE ORCHESTRA HAS AGREED TO GIVE SIX PERFORMANCES (IN SANTO DOMINGO AND SEVERAL OTHER CITIES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) AND HAS WAIVED ITS USUAL FEE OF \$4,500 PER PERFORMANCE.

2. PRESIDENT BALAGUER CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS UNDERTAKING TO TRANSPORT THE ORCHESTRA FROM MILWAUKEE AND RETURN VIA DOMINICAN AIRLINES AT NO COST.

3. GULF & WESTERN FOUNDATION HAS AGREED TO PAY FOR LODGING THE ORCHESTRA AT A HOTEL IT IS CURRENTLY RENOVATING.

4. THE ORCHESTRA'S PER DIEM FOR FOOD AND INCIDENTALS IS \$18 OR ROUGHLY \$18,000 FOR ITS STAY. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT LOCAL DOMINICAN AND AMERICAN MUSIC LOVERS WILL RAISE THIS SUM.

5. AS IT DID LAST MARCH, THE ORCHESTRA WILL GIVE A POPS CONCERT AT THE SPORTS PALACE FOR THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND A GALA BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER.

6. TO ENABLE THE ORCHESTRA TO GIVE CONCERTS "UP COUNTRY", WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE FALCONBRIDGE COMPANY HERE (FERRO-NICKEL
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PRODUCERS) THE PURCHASE OF A PORTABLE BAND SHELL (ON A TRAILER)

AT A COST OF ABOUT \$30,000. FALCONBRIDGE MANAGEMENT APPEARS
TO BE RECOGNIZING THE WISDOM OF SUCH AN INVESTMENT.

7. WE ARE OF COURSE PLEASED BY THE PROSPECT OF A RETURN VISIT
BY THE MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY AND BY THIS RENEWED DEMONSTRATION OF
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE "SHOESTRING" FORMULA: A COOPERATIVE
EFFORT INVOLVING THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT, US AND DOMINICAN
PRIVATE SECTORS AND THE EMBASSY TO PRESENT A MAJOR US
CULTURAL EVENT WITHOUT THE USE OF USG FUNDS (EXCEPT FOR
EMBASSY OFFICERS' TIME, A FEW LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS,
AND SOME POSTAGE STAMPS.)
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